

has been said to show pretty clearly just where the cause of the "postal deficit" lies; it is railroad graft, with the kind assistance of Congress. And this most excellent and worthy Congressional committee, will it recommend that railroad compensation for carrying mails be reduced to correspond with railroad charges for express and private shipments? It seems hardly likely; rather will they stand with their friends, the railroads, and recommend an increase in the charge on second-class matter. And what has that to do with medicine? It would seriously cripple a good many medical journals; it would increase the cost of publishing your own JOURNAL by several hundred dollars a year. And all this just to let the railroads steal some thirty millions of dollars from the Government. Why not drop a line to your Congressman and let him know that you know something about this particular piece of graft?

Loud spoke the gentlemen from New York, from the united and solidified profession of the Empire State, in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association when the question of supporting the Association's Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry came before it. No firmer friends had decency, said they, than the officers and delegates and members of the great Medical Society of the State of New York. The President is no less a person than Joseph D. Bryant, President-elect of the American Medical Association, and in the list of officers and delegates one may find many distinguished names. The publication committee consists of the following gentlemen: E. Eliot Harris, F. M. Crandall, H. M. Biggs, A. T. Bristow, and Alexander Lambert; the last-named gentleman is also the Treasurer of the Society. Four of the five members are also delegates to the American Medical Association and have gone on record as highly approving the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and the policy of the *Journal in dealing* with nostrums. "Words, words, words; buzz, buzz, buzz!" In the last number of the Society's *Journal*, which supposedly represents the views of the publication committee and the officers of the Society and stands for the medical profession of the great State of New York—a "united profession"—one may find the following advertisements, many of which have been exposed as frauds or the methods of the promoters condemned in the pages of the *Journal A. M. A.*: Dios Chemical Co.; Glycozone; Tyree's powder; Kutnow's powder; Scott's emulsion; Vin Mariani; Gray's glycerin tonic; Pepto-mangan; California fig syrup; Buffalo lithia water; Mercauro, etc. How the breast of the President, Dr. Bryant, President-elect of the A. M. A., must swell with pride and satisfaction when he looks at the journal of his own State Society and sees how it mocks and derides the work of the association over which he will next year preside as President. How the distinguished mem-

bers of the publication committee, four-fifths of whom are delegates to the A. M. A., must glory in the fact that they can talk loudly of purity and of supporting the A. M. A., in the House of Delegates, and then go home and sell out the pages of the journal, which it is theirs to control, to any old nostrum-man whose cash is ready! Gentlemen, for a superb feat of mental and moral jugglery, you are to be complimented! Your support of the American Medical Association, and its policy, is certainly unique; your appreciation of the work of the Council is magnificently—nil. Your co-operation in the hard work of eradicating the nastiness of the nostrum evil, must give pride to the numerous members of your great Society; they must be glad to know that the Medical Society of the State of New York approves of the nostrums mentioned, even if the Council of the A. M. A. does not. They must be proud of your rhetoric in mouthing good words as delegates, and of your acute commercialism in selling the advertising space in their journal, which they have asked you to conduct, to such a good paying, upright and righteous bunch. Dr. Bryant's position is certainly unique and entertaining. As President of the A. M. A. he will naturally take a deep interest in the tremendously valuable work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. As President of the Medical Society of the State of New York he can see the journal of that great Society selling its pages to advertise preparations exposed by the Council of the association. With one hand he may help to tear down what he has aided in building with the other. Unless we are vastly wrong in our appreciation of Dr. Bryant, he will hardly relish the anomalous position in which the journal of his Society has placed him. These, shall we say criticisms (?) of ours, are actuated by jealousy; our JOURNAL has been able to reject or throw out the advertising of only nine of the things mentioned. But there is consolation: California was placed, by a kindly providence, as far away from New York as geographical circumstances would permit!

And the *New York State Journal of Medicine* claims to an exceeding virtue. It regularly publishes the following: "The *Journal* will not accept advertisements of preparations, etc., which are advertised and sold with unsubstantiated claims to the general public; or of preparations, the formulas of which are secret." Fine! Beautiful sentiments! But note the lovely gold brick. Read that quotation over carefully. Under this rule anything advertised to the public, so long as no unsubstantiated statements were made, would be acceptable in the pages of the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, the official organ of the Medical Society of the Empire State. Self-medication may be stimulated as much as possible, and the physicians in New York will help—if they are paid for it. And as for formulas! Just ask the Council on Pharmacy and Chem-

AND IT IS
VIRTUOUS!

istry what it thinks of the formulas furnished by manufacturers. If you do not care to go to the trouble of writing to the Council, just take the back numbers of the *Journal A. M. A.*, and read what it has published regarding the frauds as to formulas or methods of bamboozling the profession which have been practiced by the very firms which the physicians of New York are now helping to promote for money. Surely, one must suppose, the officers of the great Medical Society of the State of New York, and especially the members of its publication committee, must carefully refrain from reading the *Journal A. M. A.* Or can it be that they do not care to be enlightened; that they prefer the dirty dollars they get from the advertisements? It can not be that they do not approve of the work of the Council, or endorse it, for their delegates have been active in its support. One of them, Dr. Jacobi, was on a committee which drew up resolutions endorsing the Council's work most emphatically, so recently as at the Boston meeting. Can Dr. Jacobi have changed his mind in these few months? It is not to be believed. Dr. Bryant, and you gentlemen of the publication committee, the responsibility is yours and you can not shirk it. Look through the advertising pages of the *Journal* placed in your hands by a confiding Society, read what the *Journal A. M. A.* has published in exposure of the things you are taking pay for advertising, and then say what you really think of yourselves. Why—we hate to say anything so bitter—your journal is almost as bad as the *Medical Record*!

The present number begins the fifth volume of the STATE JOURNAL. It is somewhat less bulky than the January number of a year ago, for the reason that we have not recovered from the crippling catastrophe of last April; but during the year we trust that conditions will so materially improve that the additional number of reading pages may be added. However, if we are not quite so comfortably situated as we were a year ago, we have at least as much confidence in the future and at least as much potential energy. This year and succeeding years will develop many problems of interest and importance to our profession, and will find for each one of us ample work. The broad plan of organization of the medical profession is at last shown to be distinctly successful. In all parts of the United States, medical societies are increasing their growth and their strength, and are becoming, as it were, crystallized. Instead of wandering each his own way through life, we, as physicians, are awakening to the fact that we have many important duties, and that in many directions these have been forgotten or unrecognized in the past. As our profession is brought more and more into harmony, we recognize more and more clearly the great harm that has resulted to the public through our own apathy in the past. Public health institutions of all

sorts have been permitted to become playthings of political machines. Hundreds of unscrupulous individuals have been permitted to fatten upon sickness and distress through the exploitation by our profession of worthless stuff under the guise of "proprietary" preparations; really nostrums. A few months ago it was said that only in California and in some of the Southern States did physicians rebel at the cut in insurance fees; now we find that the rebellion has spread throughout the entire country. Everywhere there is talk of reciprocity; of standardization of the laws governing medical practice; of improving, at least in some degree, our present crude methods of licensing medical practitioners. These things can be done only by medical men themselves, and then only through organized bodies of physicians, working together intelligently and understandingly. Surely, with so many interesting problems, only a few of which have been barely touched upon, one can look forward to the future with feelings of pleasurable anticipation; for 1907 brings with it no less a store of work to be done than have the previous years brought. But these undertakings are not such as may be performed by any one individual; we must all do our share. Each County Society must strive to make its organization more perfect and more solid and to bring its members into closer and more harmonious touch. As individuals we can do nothing toward the safeguarding of public health interests; as strong, active, healthy societies, we can exercise a most powerful influence. Let us see to it then, that we will endeavor to live more fully and more completely up to our duties and our responsibilities in this and succeeding years.

Truly, we are indeed a gullible and a forgetful people. We will be intensely indignant today, and tomorrow forget what it was all about. We will believe a published lie that we read today, and next week we will read another one about the same thing, but diametrically opposed; and again will we believe that. We have come to regard the most exaggerated and impossible statements of manufacturers as privileged communications whose truth should be depended upon. We have got out of the habit of asking questions—or rather we had got out of this habit until the American Medical Association organized its Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry; now we are told that the medical profession, through this Council, is asking too many impertinent questions. All this is brought to mind by a little paragraph in the "*Texas Medical Journal*" (referred to by the editor as the "red back," not the "grey back") which refers to that delectable preparation, California Fig Syrup. By this time most of us have forgotten that the trade mark formerly held by this company under the name of Fig Syrup was declared invalid by the courts, for the reason that it was neither descriptive nor true, as the preparation did not contain syrup of figs. Subsequently, we believe,